IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 2 and 18-20. Please amend Claims 1, 7, 10, 14 and 18. Please add new Claims 21-25. All presently pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Amended) A vehicle step, comprising:

a first elongate member including a first coupling section and having a male element comprising a tube disposed in radially spaced relation to the first elongate member and being attached to the first elongate member; and

a second elongate member including a second coupling section and having a female element comprising a tube disposed in radially spaced relation to the second elongate member and being attached to the second elongate member;

wherein ~~the first coupling section and the second coupling section are fixedly attached~~ the male element is insertable within the female element.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 1, wherein the first and second elongate members are substantially tubular and structured to couple to a vehicle.

4. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 1, wherein the first elongate member includes a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is structured to couple to a vehicle and the second end includes a male element.

5. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 1, wherein the second elongate member includes a first end, a second end and a frame coupling member, wherein the first end comprises a female element, and the frame coupling member is structured to couple to a vehicle.

6. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 1, further comprising an anti-rattle member.

7. (Amended) ~~The vehicle step of claim 6,~~ A vehicle step, comprising:

a first elongate member including a first coupling section;

a second elongate member including a second coupling section; and

~~wherein the anti-rattle member comprises~~ a fastener positioned in the second coupling section, the fastener arranged to extend through the second coupling section so that it contacts the first coupling section.

8. (Original) The vehicle step f claim 1, further comprising a band sized to conceal a portion of the vehicle step.

9. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 1, further comprising a step surface located on the first member, or the second member, or on both members.

10. (Amended) A vehicle step comprising:

a first member having a first end comprising a male element disposed in radially spaced relation to the first member;

a second member having a second end comprising a female element disposed in radially spaced relation to the second member; and

wherein the first member and second member are fixedly attached by positioning the male element within the female element.

11. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 10, wherein the male element comprises an elongate tube and the female element comprises an aperture within the second member.

12. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 10, wherein the first member and second member are fixedly coupled to a vehicle.

13. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 10, further comprising a step surface located on the first member, or the second member, or on both members.

14. (Amended) A method of assembling a vehicle step as claimed in Claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

providing ~~a vehicle step comprising at least two members~~ the first and second elongate members; and

inserting ~~a portion~~ the male element of ~~a~~ the first member into ~~a portion~~ the female

element of ~~a~~ the second member.

15. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 14, wherein the portion of the first member comprises an elongate tube and the portion of the second member comprises an aperture sized to receive the elongate tube.

16. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 14, wherein the at least two members are fixedly coupled to a vehicle.

17. (Original) The vehicle step of claim 14, further comprising a step surface located on the at least two members.

18. (Deleted)

19. (Deleted)

20. (Deleted)

21. (New) The vehicle step of claim 1 wherein the male element is welded to the first elongate member and the female element is welded to the second elongate member.

22. (New) The vehicle step of claim 1 wherein the male and female elements each comprises a tube, the male element being of a smaller diameter than that of the female element.

23. (New) A vehicle step, comprising:

a fastener;

a fastener receiver;

a tubular first elongate member having a step surface located thereon and having a male element comprising a tube disposed in radially spaced relation to the first elongate member, the tube being welded to the first elongate member and having the fastener receiver mounted thereon; and

a tubular second elongate member having a step surface located thereon and having

a female element comprising a tube disposed in radially spaced relation to the second elongate member, the tube being welded to the second elongate member, the second elongate member including an aperture formed therethrough and being disposed radially in general alignment with the fastener receiver;

wherein the male element is of a smaller diameter than that of the female element such that the male element is insertable within the female element, the fastener being insertable through the aperture, engageable with the fastener receiver and extended through the male element into direct engagement with the female element to prevent relative movement therebetween to couple the first elongate member to the second elongate member, the first and second elongate members each being configured to couple to a vehicle.

24. (New) The vehicle step of claim 23 further comprising a cap sized and configured to be complementary to the aperture and engageable thereto.

25. (New) The vehicle step of claim 23 further comprising a band sized and configured to conceal a portion of a mating area located between the first and second elongate members.